

**Minutes of the ARPA Funds Working Group (Filed Subject for Approval)  
June 23rd, 2022, by Zoom**

Attending: Mary Campbell, Briana Carvalho, Karen Gifford, Wes Higgins, Mary Dale Lancaster, Ward Mazzucco, Chris Parkin, Jim Sanders, Julia Pemberton

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chair Higgins.

The minutes of the meeting held June 16th, 2022 meeting were reviewed. M. Campbell offered a correction to the Topstone project notes that they should have read \$215,000 for the Phase I costs and \$55,600 for the phase that included the adult work out area.

**Motion to adopt corrected minutes (W. Mazzucco, M. Lancaster) Adopted by unanimous vote 8-0**

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Briana began the discussion with a motion on the Georgetown Village sign proposal

**Motion 1: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$15,000 for the installation of signs as proposed by the Georgetown Village Restoration Association as permitted under Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule, with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify. (B. Carvalho, C. Parkin).**

**Motion 1: Adopted 7-0 (In Favor: M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford, W. Higgins, W. Mazzucco, C. Parkin, J. Sanders), abstained M. Lancaster**

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**Motion 2: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$4,000 for the installation of a sign as proposed by the West Redding Business Association as permitted under Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule, with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify. (W Higgins, W. Mazzucco).**

W. Mazzucco commented that the businesses in West Redding would be best helped by other means than erecting the proposed sign. C. Parkin indicated he was inclined to be helpful but was not persuaded by the proposal that it was a good choice. K. Gifford and Mary Dale Lancaster agree with Chris's assessment.

**Motion 2 failed 0-7 (In Favor: none.) (Opposed: M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford, W. Higgins, W. Mazzucco, C. Parkin, J. Sanders), abstained M. Lancaster**

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**Motion 3: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$60,000 for the construction and installation of a moveable wall and room divider in the Town's Community Center as proposed by the Town of Redding's Heritage Center as permitted under**

**Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule, with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify. (K. Gifford, Mary Campbell)**

C. Parkin asked when the amount of the original proposal of \$50,000 was raised to \$60,000. W. Higgins replied that the number was updated in the discussion of the proposal on April 28<sup>th</sup> by Ruth Moran. J. Sanders noted that it seemed a reasonable adaptation of the building without a large cost. C. Parkin noted that the building requires a through architectural review but the proposal offers flexibility for a reasonable cost.

**Motion 3. adopted 8-0 (In Favor: M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford, W. Higgins, M. Lancaster, W. Mazzucco, C. Parkin, J. Sanders)**

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**Motion 4: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$92,689 for the construction and installation of two pickleball courts as proposed by the Town of Redding's Park and Rec Commission as permitted under Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule, with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify and the additional conditions of 1 all municipal approvals required for construction be obtained in advance of funding and 2 the private funding raised be no less than \$15,000. (W. Mazzucco, Mary Dale Lancaster).**

W. Mazzucco spoke in support of the motion noting that the intention of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance was to include this project with the construction of the four new tennis courts. Jim Sanders noted the significant private fundraising in support of the courts. Karen agreed that the monies raised is a strong statement. Chris was not sure that \$100,000 should be spent with 8 new courts for pickleball under construction and the process for the referendum was a concern. W. Mazzucco pointed out the temporary nets were prone to damage or theft. Mary Campbell discussed the 2019 survey of recreational interest by town residents and asked if tennis use would fully utilize the four new courts. Chris suggested the vote be delayed to the end of the meeting to understand how much money was committed in total from ARPA funds before the pickleball vote was taken.

**Motion 5: To move the Pickleball vote to the end of the meeting agenda. (C. Parkin, Campbell)**

**Motion 5 Failed 4-4 (in Favor: M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford, C. Parkin) (Opposed W. Higgins, M. Lancaster, W. Mazzucco, J. Sanders)**

**Motion 4 failed 4-4 (in favor W. Higgins, M. Lancaster, W. Mazzucco, J. Sanders) (opposed C. Parkin, M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford)**

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**Motion 6 : To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$45,000 for the construction on the second floor of the Redding Grange building of an ADA compliant restroom, installation of air conditioning equipment, and improvements to the electrical wiring for a project as permitted under Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule , with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify. (M. Lancaster, K. Gifford)**

Mary Dale Lancaster followed her motion with the comments that the Grange association was an active group under strong leadership and the grant of \$45,000 is a good opportunity to support their efforts. B. Carvalho voiced her support. Julia noted that Elizabeth Jensen had contacted her just before the meeting to report the results of the soil test by the Department of Health that ruled out a commercial kitchen installation that was proposed in the second section of the Grange's ARPA application.

**Motion 6 Adopted 8-0 (In Favor: M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford, W. Higgins, M. Lancaster, W. Mazzucco, C. Parkin, J. Sanders)**

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**Motion 7: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$77,280 for the construction on the lower first floor of the Redding Grange building of a commercial kitchen as a project as permitted under Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule, with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify. (M. Lancaster, K. Gifford)**

**Motion 7: failed 0- 8 (In Favor: none, Opposed: M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford, W. Higgins, M. Lancaster, W. Mazzucco, C. Parkin, J. Sanders)**

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**Motion 8: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$100,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of Redding and Easton for a project as permitted under Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule, with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify and the additional conditions of**

**1.that funding for Torch and Keystone programs will be the responsibility of BCGRE beginning after December 31, 2024 and**

**2. of \$80,000 to be used for the capital items listed below and \$20,000 for the payment of staff members as listed.**

**Capital Related – up to \$80,000**

- 1. Replacement of Toro 3500 D mower –**
- 2. Repair and / or resurfacing of outdoor basketball court inc. pickeball –**
- 3. Repair of cupolas on building and pavilion –**
- 4. Gravel stone for parking areas and driveway –**
- 5. Field Clay for Baseball and Softball fields –**
- 6. Replacement of Spectator Stands – 2 Sets –**
- Non-Capital Program Related -up to \$20,000**
- 7. Funding for PT Marketing / Social Media Coordinator –**
- 8. Funding for PT Program Manager for Torch, Keystone Clubs -**

**( M. Campbell, M. Lancaster)**

Mary Campbell introduced her motion and described it as a catalyst for the Club to recover from the negative impact of Covid and reintroduce programs for the community. J. Sanders suggested the expenditures have a time period specified in the grant. K Gifford agreed with Jim's time

frame proposal. C Parkin stated the proposal was a quintessential ARPA project and saw the grant as a catalyst for the Club. M. Lancaster expressed her support of the proposal but noted that effective fundraising by the Club was essential for their future success.

**Motion 8: Adopted 8-0 (In Favor: M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford, W. Higgins, M. Lancaster, W. Mazzuco, C. Parkin, J. Sanders)**

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**Motion 9: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$200,000 for the New Pond Farm restoration of wetlands project as permitted under Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule, with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify and with the additional conditions**

- 1. The grant is contingent on New Pond Farm first obtaining all required approvals and permits for the project**
- 2. The grant payment in total is not to exceed ½ of the total cost of the project, and**
- 3. New Pond Farm will provide residents with day passes to its property in a mutually acceptable manner.**

**(J. Sanders, W. Mazzuco)**

W. Higgins provided the group with details of the day pass arrangement that Ann Taylor of New Pond Farm had offered to establish for residents of the Town. W. Mazzuco indicated his support as the Organization brought significant benefits to the community. M. Lancaster agreed with Ward's comments. C. Parkin noted that a grant of almost 10% of the ARPA funds is a lot but the nonprofit suffered a large negative fundraising result from Covid and it has a significant positive impact on the community.

**Motion 9: Adopted 8-0 (In Favor: M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford, W. Higgins, M. Lancaster, W. Mazzuco, C. Parkin, J. Sanders)**

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**Motion 10 : To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$200,000 for the Mark Twain Library outdoor patio project as permitted under Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule , with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify and with the additional conditions of 1.The grant is contingent on the Mark Twain Library first obtaining all required approvals and permits for the project , 2. The grant payment in total is not to exceed ½ of the total cost of the project, (C. Parkin, K. Gifford)**

K. Gifford spoke in favor of the motion noting the importance of the library as a significant community resource. J Sanders emphasized the results of the community survey the Library conducted that strongly supported the expansion of the outdoor facilities.

**Motion 10: Adopted 7-0 (In Favor: M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford, W. Higgins, M. Lancaster, W. Mazzuco, C. Parkin,) J. Sanders abstained**

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**Motion 11: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$50,000 for the Redding Park and Rec Topstone improvement project as permitted under Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule, with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify and the additional condition of obtaining all of the necessary reviews by the Zoning Board, Park and Rec, and Planning Commissions (W. Mazzucco, K. Gifford)**

W. Mazzucco introduced his motion to provide funding of \$50,000 to replace the playground that had been removed at Topstone park. He described the initial 3 phase plan for the park as transformative and well beyond simply replacing and improving the playground that had existed for some years. M. Campbell noted that \$50,000 is too small an amount to complete the necessary site work and also provide for the purchase and installation of the equipment. J. Sanders expressed his support of playgrounds replacement in phase I of the project but was skeptical of phase II and phase III. M. Lancaster indicated her support of the playground but felt the overall plan's cost to be excessive. B Carvalho described her families use of the park and supported the overall goals of the plan but suggested a budget for the playground of \$150,000 seemed more appropriate. K. Gifford agreed with Briana's suggestion. W. Mazzucco amended his motion to up to \$150,000 and K. Gifford seconded the amendment.

**Motion 11 as Amended : To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$150,000 for the Redding Park and Rec Topstone improvement project as permitted under Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule, with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify and the additional condition of obtaining all of the necessary reviews by the Zoning Board, Park and Rec, and Planning Commissions (W. Mazzucco, K. Gifford)**

**Motion 11 as Amended: Adopted 8-0 (In Favor: M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford, W. Higgins, M. Lancaster, W. Mazzucco, C. Parkin, J. Sanders)**

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**Motion 12: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the use of ARPA funding of up to \$250,000 for Region 9 School District to undertake the Barlow fields improvement project as permitted under Expenditure Category 6.1 of the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule , with such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may specify and the additional condition of the monies to be held by the Selectmen for up to one year and released only if the Board of Selectmen determine that:**

- a. plans have been created for the construction of a building at the stadium that provides for an ADA compliant restroom and related septic facilities, team rooms, and a functional kitchen.
- b. Bid proposals based upon the plans are obtained.
- c. All necessary approvals from zoning, health department, planning, and Region 9 Board are obtained.

- d. **The is certainty that funds identified from both government and private donations are sufficient to complete the project.**
- e. **The Town of Easton has provided a commitment of funds that is at least equal to \$250,000 divided by Redding's percentage of JBHS students divided by Easton's percentage of JBHS students**

**(K. Gifford, M. Lancaster)**

M. Campbell asked if the Easton requirement is mandatory if the fundraising is sufficient without them. W Mazzucco responded that Easton has an obligation. W. Higgins noted that if Easton chooses to not provide funding Region 9 could secure the funding and allocate the cost to the two towns. K. Gifford and J. Sanders agreed that the joint venture of the two towns require a shared effort.

**Motion 12: Adopted 8-0 (In Favor: M. Campbell, B. Carvalho, K. Gifford, W. Higgins, M. Lancaster, W. Mazzucco, C. Parkin, J. Sanders)**

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Adjourned 7:17 pm (W. Mazzucco, K. Gifford)

Submitted by Wes Higgins